

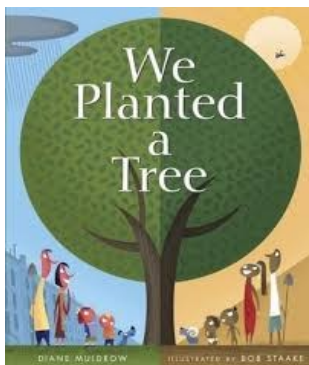
# Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Newsletter

Louisiana Department  
of Natural Resources

dnr.la.gov

## Celebrate-Educate—Plant a Tree—National Earth Day is April 22nd

The first Earth Day began on April 22, 1970, and today more than a billion people participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.



**Louisiana Earth Day will be celebrated on April 17** in downtown Baton Rouge, with activities, demonstrations, education and music. It's a free event that places an emphasis on many children activities, encouraging them to be a part of a clean green planet Earth.

DNR participates year after year in raising awareness of the need to keep our state protected and our environment safe and sound. Earth Fest held at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans was celebrated this year with Office of Coastal Management staff attending on March 19. If you

haven't been – consider a fun-filled educational day on April 17 in Baton Rouge. Office of Conservation Ground Water Resources staff and Louisiana Clean Fuels and Energy Office staff will see you there.

**ADDED BONUS:** Every time a tree is planted, our environment improves. Forests and trees are the lungs of our Earth so get out and Plant a Tree this Earth Day. They absorb excess and harmful CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere. In fact, in a single year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by driving the average car 26,000 miles.

- Trees help us breathe clean air.
- Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.
- Trees help communities.
- Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability and provide food, energy and income.

## Leaders Against Litter— Governor, Lt. Governor, Agencies, and Volunteers, Take Action Day Keep Louisiana Beautiful Campaign

On March 18, state leaders took action for a day of picking up litter across the state and supporting the cause. The rainy weather did not deter many of the planned events by Keep La. Beautiful affiliates who support community and volunteer activism. Shown are Gov. John Bel Edwards, First Lady Donna Edwards and KLB Board Chairman Andy Johnson who picked up litter around the Capitol lakes.

Number of Leaders Attending: 765

Number of Bags of Litter picked up: 441

Pounds of trash picked up: 8,820

Number of Cigarette Butts picked up: 5,358

Number of volunteer hours: 1319



## Message from Department of Natural Resources Secretary Thomas Harris



While it is my honor to have been named as the new Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, I recognize that the success of this agency is dependent on the men and women who work every day to ensure that DNR meets its responsibilities to the state and its people. Changes in demand or in the ways that the people and industries in this state make use of our natural resources challenge us to adjust our processes to ensure fair and effective regulation. Our stated mission is to provide a regulatory system that allows opportunities for development and economic growth through the use of our natural resources while at the same time ensuring protection of public safety and the environment. And, I believe that the men and women of DNR have demonstrated their commitment to that in the past and I hope that you will continue to do so as we deal with new challenges in the future.

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## French Congressman and Delegation Discuss Energy Topics During Louisiana, USA Visit

By Patrick Courreges, Office of the Secretary

In March, DNR staffers met with a French delegation led by Congressman Christian Bataille, who visited the LSU Center for Energy Studies (LSU CES) to discuss the regulation of hydraulic fracturing processes and the impact these evolving techniques have had on domestic oil and gas production.

DNR staff attending the event to present information included Office of Mineral Resources Petroleum Lands Director Emile Fontenot and Office of Conservation Engineering Regulatory Division Director Brent Campbell. LSU CES Executive Director David Dismukes also made a presentation for the visitors, who included Bataille, France's Consul General in New Orleans, Gregor Trumel; French Trade Counsellor Luc Boyer; and Eric Szi, with France's Parliamentary Office of Scientific and Technological Assessment.



Bataille and his group also shared their views on how U.S. production has affected the economy of France, which relies heavily on imports to serve its oil and gas needs. Bataille is preparing a report on the potential impacts of the hydraulic fracturing process for consideration by the French government, which had previously banned the practice.

## Signs of the Times – What's Beyond Oil and Gas

The first cargo of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exported from the lower 48 states departed from Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass terminal in Louisiana in February headed to Brazil on the Asia Vision LNG tanker. It is expected to be received by Petrobras (Petroleo Brazil), as reported by Bloomberg. Exporting LNG from the U.S., particularly from the Gulf Coast, is a net positive for both the U.S. and Louisiana. Liquefiers can take advantage of the ample resources in Louisiana. They can transport Louisiana natural gas to the new liquefaction plants in Southwestern Louisiana and receive economic benefits from the expansion of LNG exports without disruption in the domestic natural gas market. Increasing LNG exports will also be a job creator for Louisiana since they are creating construction, operation, and production jobs needed to fulfill the global demand for LNG. (Source: La. Energy Facts/DNR Technology Assessment)

Seventy-three percent of Americans say they prefer emphasizing **alternative energy**, rather than gas and oil production, as the solution to the nation's energy problems. This marks the highest percentage of Americans prioritizing alternative energy since Gallup first asked the question in 2011. These results are from Gallup's annual Environment poll, conducted March 2-6. From 2012 to 2014, the gap separating traditional and alternative energy advocates was stable, with differences between the two groups ranging from 25 to 32 percentage points. But this year, the gap has widened to 52 points. Meanwhile, the perception that fuel is not in short supply -- as indicated by low gas prices -- may also contribute to more Americans now favoring alternative energy solutions. (Source: Recent Gallup Poll)

## Commissioner of Conservation Richard Ieyoub Recognized for Leadership, Determination, Commitment to State

Gov. John Bel Edwards selected Richard Ieyoub, Sr. to serve as the new Commissioner, a position that dates back to 1912 when M.L. Alexander held the post. By today's standards, the Commissioner of Conservation is responsible for administering all activities involving the conservation and development of all natural and mineral resources of the state. The Commissioner oversees the administration of six divisions and three district offices within the Office of Conservation.

Ieyoub previously was elected and served as attorney general of Louisiana from 1992 to 2004 and was Calcasieu Parish district attorney in Lake Charles from 1984 to 1992. He received his bachelor's degree in history in 1968 from McNeese State University and his Juris Doctor degree in 1972 from Louisiana State University Law Center in Baton Rouge.

Commissioner Ieyoub began his first days on the job getting to know personnel and key managers who he says have contributed tirelessly and effectively to the operations of the office over the years. He looks forward to continued public service and in keeping a balance between industry and environmental concerns.

He was recently honored by the Southern University Law Center during a special celebration that marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of *Clark v Roemer* and *Chisom v Edwards* - historic landmark cases that led to greater diversity in the state's judiciary system. He is shown here during the presentation ceremony on February 26, 2016.

*Photo Credit: Carla Ball, Southern University Law Center*



## *DNR Office of Mineral Resources Welcomes*

Newly appointed Assistant Secretary  
Office of Mineral Resources David Boulet

Newly appointed Board members  
J. Todd Hollenshead (Benton)  
Robert Watkins (Robert)  
Johnny Bradberry (Baton Rouge)



*Boulet shown above with Deputy Assistant Secretary Stacey Talley at March meeting*



## Former Mineral Board Member Carol Leblanc Returns to Work

The State Mineral and Energy Board administers the state's proprietary interest in minerals and has nine members appointed by the governor. Selected to serve on the Board by Gov. John Bel Edwards is Carol Leblanc of Raceland, who is retired from the North Lafourche Conservation Levee and Drainage District.

Ms. Leblanc also served on the Board under the Blanco Administration and was the Chairwoman for the Royalty Accounting Committee at that time. She is a true civic leader and an advocate for women, business and economic development, and juvenile justice. She is a member of the La. Judiciary Commission and various other state boards.



## Field Biologists Cover All Parishes in State's Coastal Zone

The Office of Coastal Management's Field Services section is responsible for the biological field investigations and enforcement monitoring activities within the state's Coastal Zone to ensure and maintain compliance with the State and Local Coastal Resources Act 361. Investigations and assessments are performed to evaluate and document any possible direct and significant impacts to coastal waters and provide alternatives for avoidance with minimization of impacts to wetland and coastal resources associated with activities within the coastal zone.

Don Haydel is OCM's Interagency Affairs and Field Services division director. The field biologists are Frank Cole (Area 2), Kirk Kilgen (Area 3), Rod Pierce (Area 4), Darin Thomasee (Area 5), Kaili Patterson (Area 6), and Craig LeBlanc (Area 1). We salute them for their hard work, dedication, and for being on the front lines meeting people in the parishes every day and making strategic decisions as part of the permitting process.



*Photo Left: OCM Biologist Rod Pierce shown taking notes while assessing wetland impacts on an enforcement action. Photo Right: Biologist Frank Cole covers Plaquemines, Orleans, St. Bernard and Jefferson parishes and is shown here with OCM Mitigation Manager Kelley Templet viewing a marsh creation area paid for with OCM Mitigation In-Lieu Fee funds in Plaquemines parish.*

## Classroom Education and Outreach: Learning is Fun When it's Hands On

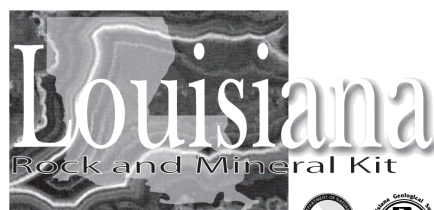
If you are a fifth grader, you probably have no problem going to class when you can learn and examine rocks, stones and minerals found in your own state. Even more exciting is the chance to compete for becoming known as the "DNR Junior Scientist"—a prestigious award given to students that earn an A+ for knowing the subject matter, particularly what is the Official State Rock and the State Fossil.

The department's Junior Scientist certificate is signed by the Secretary and hands-down is a big hit in the classroom. The rock kits make for an excellent presentation allowing the students to see, touch and ask questions about where the individual rocks are found. Teachers are thrilled to be able to use the kits for future studies on geology and earth science.

DNR makes a concerted effort each year with the knowledge of our scientists and professionals by volunteering our time and resources to schools and communities in hopes of broadening their understanding of the state, our duties, and hopefully improving the quality of life for our citizens.

*Right: Cover of the 2016 Rocks and Mineral Kits composed of nine samples produced by the Louisiana Geological Survey for DNR*

*Far Right: Newly Awarded Third Grade Junior Scientists at St. Thomas More School in Baton Rouge*



## BOEM Reports on Companies Bidding at March Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale

The recent Gulf of Mexico Federal Lease Sale generated the fewest number of bids in the GoM in the past 20 years, but particular areas did attract strong competitive bidding. Sale 241 in the Central Planning Area and Lease Sale 226 in the Eastern Planning Area were the ninth and tenth offshore auctions under the current Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2012-2017. Sale 241 offered 8,349 unleased blocks covering about 44.3 million acres. In the lease sale, 148 bids were submitted on 128 blocks by 30 oil and gas companies.

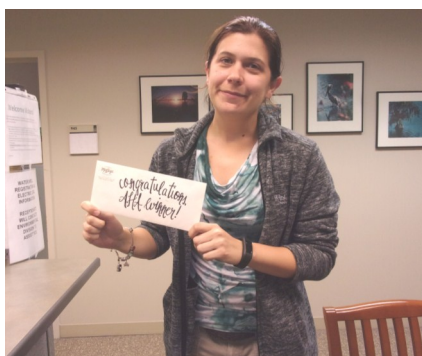
The total amount of high bids was roughly \$156.4 million. The total amount for all bids submitted was about \$179.2 million.

The high bid in Sale 241 was for Mississippi Canyon Block 434 for about \$13.7 million in a joint bid submitted by affiliates of Venari Resources LLC and Chevron Corp. Sale 226, which included 162 whole or partial unleased blocks covering 595,475 acres in the Eastern Planning Area, did not receive bids.

According to Assistant Secretary Janice Schneider for land and minerals management under the Department of Interior, a more robust interest should return when commodity prices rise again and market conditions change.

## Highlights of Upcoming Calendar Events

### American Heart Association Capital Area Heart Walk April 9, 2016 LSU, Baton Rouge



Thanks to DNR's participation and generous employees, to date have raised over \$840  
*Office of Conservation's Stacey Dykes was the winner of DNR Heart Drive's Fitness Challenge!*



### State of the Coast Conference June 1-3, 2016

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
New Orleans, LA

Discussion Sessions and Distinguished Panel Discussions including the Topics of High Water Event Implications, Regional Sediment Management Approaches to Restoration in Louisiana, with Other Gulf Perspectives and Oh the Humanities!: Culture and Values in Coastal Restoration

### La. Alternative Fuels Conference & Expo April 14, 2016 Cajundome Convention Center Lafayette, LA



### Pipeline Safety Conference August 8-12, 2016

Hazardous Liquids: August 8-10, 2016  
Gas Distribution & Transmission: August 10-12, 2016  
Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Co-sponsors: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and Louisiana Gas Association  
Alabama Public Service Commission  
Arkansas Public Service Commission  
Arkansas Oil & Gas Commission  
Mississippi Public Service Commission  
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission